



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, we are a nation of immigrants, made up of diverse people; and

WHEREAS, sixty-one years ago, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, 120,000 civilians of Japanese decent, two thirds of whom were American citizens, were incarcerated in internment camps; and

WHEREAS, almost 10,000 of the total 120,000 civilians of Japanese decent were incarcerated in an internment camp called Minidoka or "Hunt", in Jerome County, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the former Minidoka site is now Minidoka Internment National Monument; and

WHEREAS, almost 1,000 Japanese American men from the Minidoka internment camp fought in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Minidoka had the highest enlistment rate and highest casualty rate of all ten major internment camps in the United States; and

WHEREAS, volunteers from Minidoka were part of the units, know as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Battalion during WWII and highly distinguished themselves in combat; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has recognized the injustice of the evacuation and internment; and

WHEREAS, Japanese Americans in our communities have continued to contribute to our society and have distinguished themselves in all walks of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2003, to be

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

in Idaho, to commemorate the anniversary of the internment and as a time to reflect on the need for tolerance, especially in times of national emergency and war.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord two-thousand and three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-seventh and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirteenth.

A handwritten signature of Dirk Kempthorne in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature of Ben Isukasa in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

BEN ISUKASA
SECRETARY OF STATE